

PROFESSOR ADOLF SLABY, MARCONI'S GREATEST RIVAL

As one of the most famous scientific men in Germany, recently elevated by the command of the kaiser to the honorary professorship of philosophy in the University of Berlin, Professor Adolf Slaby is always listened to with attention, especially when he discourses upon the subject of wireless telegraphy. He is one of the inventors of the Slaby-Arco system, which the German emperor has installed on his yacht, the Hohenzollern, and in his navy and wishes, it is said, to see introduced on all the great "liners" sailing under the German flag.

Unlike his rival, Signor Marconi, who sprang almost at once into fame through fortunate experiments, Professor Slaby has devoted all the mature years of his life (he is now fifty-four) to scientific study and teaching. Nearly two years ago, he says, he sent wireless messages, and while Marconi was working secretly he published the results of his investigations to the scientific world. Assisted by Count Arco, the improved system that resulted from their combined researches was given the compound name it now bears, the "Slaby-Arco."

Professor Slaby's most recent utterance on wireless telegraphy is of great interest, not only because it throws light upon the probable workings of the new discovery in the near future, but also because it contains a protest against what he calls the possible "commercialism" of the great invention or its being used for the exploitation of private or corporate interests as contradistinguished from its rightful use as a public benefit. In the first place, he says, "wireless telegraphy will in no event interfere with the cables, and it is simply ridiculous for the shareholders of cable stock to become alarmed. When the electric light was introduced, holders of gas stock were frightened, but the result has been that gas is now used more generally and in larger quantities than before electricity was introduced. There is no danger, in my opinion, that the wireless spark telegraph system will ever supplant the submarine cable, for the world is large enough for both systems without their conflicting in the least. The chief objection to transoceanic telegraphy by ether waves is that such strong currents as are necessarily used by Marconi in sending messages over great distances would interrupt communication over the entire area of transmission. When two 'boards' are tuned to receive or send messages and a heavy alien current comes along, it positively destroys communication. A case in point, for instance, may be cited in the attempt of the operators of the Slaby-Arco system on board the Deutschland on a recent homeward trip to pick up our station at Cuxhaven. Communication was constantly interrupted by some operator or operators on shore sending out the letter 'V,' showing conclusively that this form of interference was possible."



PROFESSOR ADOLF SLABY.

The possible "commercialism" of wireless telegraphy was suggested, the learned professor states, by the action of the Marconi operators at the Nan-

tucket shoals signal station, who, when it was ascertained that the Deutsch-

land, with Prince Henry aboard, was

trying to communicate with them cut her off without recognition. This might have happened, he says, to a ship in distress as well as to one merely desiring an interchange of friendly messages, and in this manner the mere rivalry of two systems might result in loss of life and property. In this connection one cannot help recalling that Marconi himself was the victim of the real or affected jealousy of a cable company when he was experimenting in Newfoundland and that he gave vent to an outburst of righteous indignation thereat. Now that the "shoe is on the other foot" and there is rivalry between the different companies using the wireless system, it is the new arrival's turn to be virtuously indignant at the "infringement" of its rights.

Further complications have arisen and a sort of triangular contest is promised by the claim of another wireless company, the Braun, also German, that both Marconi and Slaby are infringing upon its patents. The charge is made that Professor Slaby, as a special favorite of the kaiser, has been granted privileges in which it at least ought to share. The outcome may be a suit at law in which the rival claims will be subjected to examination and the matter finally decided.

The real truth in the matter lies in the fact that a few individuals may seek to take to themselves a monopoly of one of nature's gifts to mankind, the universality of which alone proclaims the fact that it should be held in trust for the benefit of the world at large, and not for a few people or corporations. The gist of Professor Slaby's complaint seems to lie in the fact that his own system is about to be installed in the United States, with stations at different points on our coast, similar to those which already exist on the shores of the North sea.

Professor Slaby does not, however, believe in the practicability of the invention for transoceanic messages so much as for its use along shore, between stations and approaching or departing vessels and also as a means of signaling vessels in distress. The German does not claim any superiority for his own invention or discovery, and his unprejudiced statements are entitled to great respect, as much on account of their illumination of the wireless telegraph problem as in the defining of its limitations.

HISTORIC RINGS.

The czar of Russia is not the only royal person who wears a ring to which tradition has given a strange value. The kaiser always wears a queer old ring in which is set a small stone of very little value, yet he attaches importance to it, for it is a Hohenzollern talisman. According to the legend, it was brought to the wife of Elector John of Brandenburg by a toad. Frederick the Great's father had it set in a ring, and it has been cherished by the family ever since.

THE ASTOR, A NEW HOTEL WHICH WILL COST \$5,000,000, TO BE BUILT IN NEW YORK CITY



The latest addition to New York city's long list of hotels is to be called the Astor, is to occupy an entire block on Longacre square and is to cost \$5,000,000. Work was recently begun upon this structure, which is to be ten stories above the street level, with two beneath. The style of architecture is to be modern renaissance. The material will be limestone and red brick, with roof of slate and burnished copper. It will contain spacious banquet halls and ballrooms on the ninth floor, a grand promenade 130 feet long, a mezzanine gallery overlooking a floral and palm garden, a magnificent rotunda with marble staircases and the latest devices in every department. Among these will be an automatic dish remover, which will supply a long felt want.

A CHINESE NEW WOMAN.

Not only is Miss Yamai Kin the first Chinese woman to take a medical degree, but she is an authority on microphotography and has published a book on the subject. Her father was a high cast gentleman who became converted to Christianity and brought Miss Kin



TALLEST MAN ON EARTH.

The tallest man on earth is said to be Edward Beapour, a French Canadian thirty years old. He weighs 547 pounds and is 10 feet 11 inches in height. The



man standing by his side in the illustration was 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighed like a boy by comparison. Beapour is an athlete as well as a giant. His parents were of ordinary size, and he could put them both on one leg of his trousers, there being not enough in one of his suits to outfit several men of average size.

A COCHIN CHINA SPORTSMAN GOING TO SET A TIGER TRAP.



The forests of Cochin China are full of game which is easily obtained, but the human hunter sometimes finds it difficult to get it without great risk, owing to the numerous tigers, which have a disagreeable way of hunting the hunter. In order to outwit the great forest cat the natives set a sort of gigantic mouse-trap baited with a live pig. This trap is made of palm logs driven into the ground. Big stones weigh the door, which drops when the tiger crawls beneath it to get the bait. The illustration shows one of the native hunters on his way to set a tiger trap, carrying the bait, a live pig, at the end of a pole, with a counterweight as a balance at the other end.

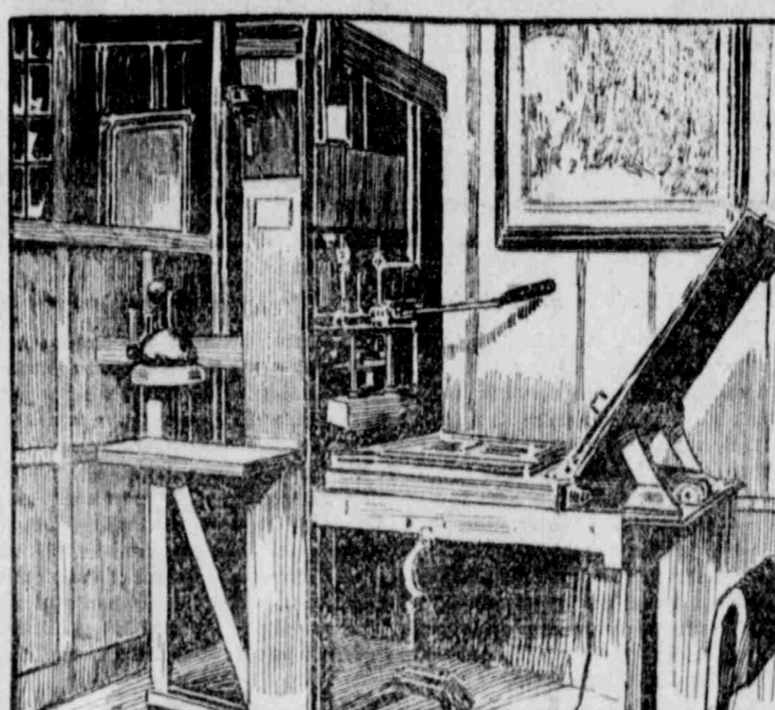
WORLD'S LARGEST SYCAMORE.

The largest sycamore tree in the world is said to stand on the reservation of the Wyandotte Indians, and here the old warriors held many a pow-wow in the ancient days. It is so tall



that it casts a shadow over four acres of ground, and beneath its big limbs entire Sunday schools have held their summer picnics year after year. Its age has never been computed, but is known to be very great.

WALTER SCOTT'S WORKS WERE PRINTED ON THIS PRESS.



The successors to the publishing house of Ballantyne, the firm in which Sir Walter Scott was interested as a silent partner, still possess the original press upon which the latter's early works were printed. It was worked by "elbow grease" solely, and when the famous author was at the height of his fame must have been pretty constantly in use. It was owing to the failure of the Ballantynes in 1826 that Scott made the great record of his life in writing books, liquidating in a few years an indebtedness of more than \$200,000 and exerting himself to such an extent that he paid the forfeit with his life.

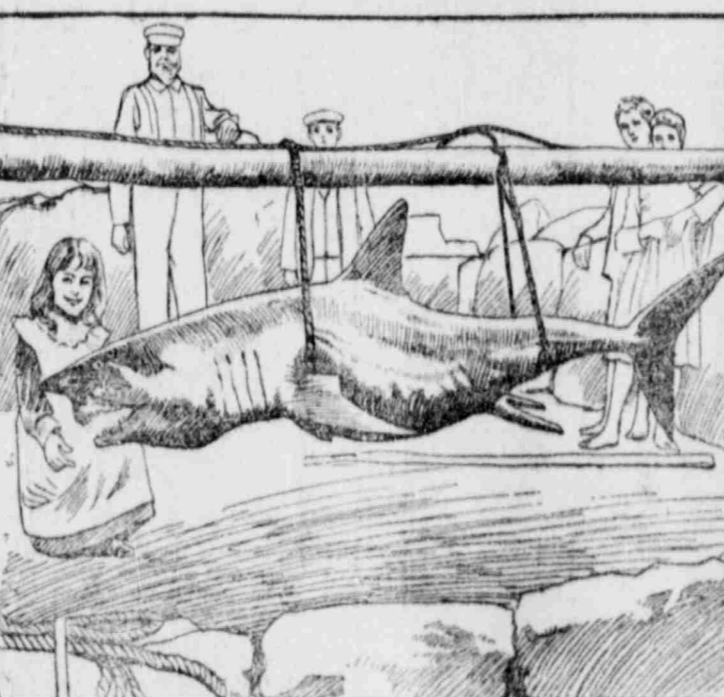
FAIR POLITICAL WRITER TO WED.

The reported engagement of Miss Flora L. Shaw to Sir F. J. D. Lugard calls attention to a fair author and journalist who has acquired an international reputation. She has traveled in all parts of the world, has investigated all sorts of colonizing schemes and has been for years at the head of the "colonial department" of the London Times. Her latest enterprise was the heading of a special commission to South Africa undertaken at her instigation, but she has also made special investigations in Canada, the Klondike and Australia.



The value of Spain's mineral production in 1901 was \$57,714,451.

MONSTER MAN EATER CAUGHT ON THE CUBAN COAST.



The largest man eating shark of the season is said to have been caught on the coast of Cuba, near Cienfuegos, recently by two fishermen. The monster became entangled in their nets, set in shallow water, and, being taken at a disadvantage, was killed after a desperate fight, in which one of the men received a terrible wound. This shark was twenty-seven feet in length and one of the largest captured on the coast, though in those tropical waters the species sometimes attains a length of over thirty feet. This one was big enough, however, to make the fight very interesting while it lasted, and its jaws were so large that it could have swallowed an ordinary man without difficulty. The locality of its capture was near that in which the first navigator of these waters, Christopher Columbus, declared he often saw the natives catching sharks by means of the romora, or sucking fish, which attached itself to the head of its prey and then was pulled in by the Indians by a long line tied to its tail.

RALPH HALL CAINE, EDITOR.

The youngest editor in London is said to be Ralph Hall Caine. He occupies the editorial chair once filled by Charles Dickens, for his father, the renowned author, Hall Caine, has purchased Dickens' old paper, Household Words, and installed his son as editor. He is only seventeen and a half years old and



is fresh from school, so nothing can yet be said as to his capabilities. But his father wishes to test him, he says, and thinks his boy has made a good beginning by commissioning him (Hall Caine, Sr.) to write a novel for his paper.

NEIL MUNRO, RISING AUTHOR.

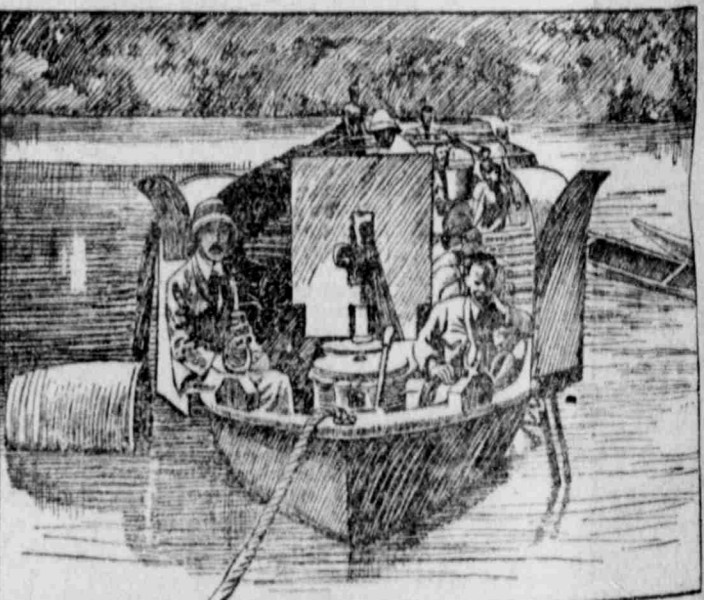
The subject of this sketch, Neil Munro, was born at Inverary, Scotland, in 1861 and through his writings has become intimately identified with his native land. Beginning his active career



as a journalist, he published in 1896 the "Lost Pilgrims," a collection of Celtic tales and sketches; in 1898 the highland romance called "John Splendid," "Gillian the Dreamer" in 1899, "Doom Castle" in 1900 and last year his latest, called "Shoes of Fortune." He lives in quaint but Inverary part of the time, but does most of his writing in his house at Waterfoot, Busby, "by Glasgow."

Canada has only twelve medical colleges.

ARMORED CANOES INTRODUCED ON PHILIPPINE RIVERS.



A new type of armored canoes is now being used with success against the belligerent natives in the Philippines. As is well known, many commands have been ambushed by the treacherous Filipinos, especially from the banks of rivers as the troops were crossing or making landings. Since the armored canoes have come into service such occurrences have become quite rare. Each canoe carries quick firing machine guns at bow and stern, shields for the protection of the gunners and loopholed armor plates for the security of the command.

THE CHILE-ARGENTINA BONE OF CONTENTION.



In the accompanying illustration is shown the bit of territory in the Andes where the first dispute occurred over the international boundary line. Chile claimed that the boundary should run along the general line of the cordillera, while Argentina was sure it took in mountain valleys constituting the watersheds, no matter whether they dipped east or west. The matter was decided twenty many years ago, but the dispute broke out afresh when the Chilean government opened roads through the valley depicted here. Of itself the territory in question is of little value, but all the same it came near being a casus belli between the two great republics of South America.

PERT PERSONALS.

Mr. Davies, secretary of the British Electric Traction company, is at present in New York arranging to take back a number of American trolley cars on the lines owned by Mr. Davies' company. Mr. Davies is obtaining the best men possible at high salaries. They will be set to work giving instructions

to English operators on their arrival there.

An unreported but very interesting incident occurred during King Edward's inspection of a famous firm's new brewery at Burton. Among the men on duty was one named Smith. He was on duty on the copper hearth and was wearing military medals. This circumstance attracted

his majesty's attention, and, turning to the man, he said as he examined the medals: "Well, old fellow, where did you get these? They are a credit to you." Smith was a sergeant in the Ninth lancers and possesses the Afghan medal and one for the march with Lord Roberts from Kabul to Kandahar. Professor Lodge, P. R. S., the well known physicist, in his presidential address to the Society For Physical Re-

search ascribed the objection of physical scientists to the study of physical phenomena mainly to their regarding it as unintelligible. The professor was not prepared to say that the passage of matter through matter, "materializations" and other physical phenomena were impossible and absurd. His belief, resting on scientific evidence, was that man survived after death, and he was disposed to regard "trance utterances"

(the supposed influence of a "spirit" on a "medium" in a trance) as due to telepathic communication with some subconscious strain by a departed person. Some time ago the papers published an order of Lord Kitchener forbidding columns on the march to carry pianos and harmoniums. A curious and, it is averred, true story has just come from the front showing the necessity of the order. Two columns hap-

pened to meet one another on the veid. Said the commander of one to the commander of the other, "Tell me, do you happen to want a piano?" "No," replied the other. "I don't say that we do, why?" "Because we have seven, and it's more than we know what to do with."

Rev. W. H. Griffith Thomas, the noted London divine, is leading a party of Bible students on a seven weeks' trip to Egypt, Palestine, Asia Minor and Greece. The king of Italy possesses some of the most valuable horses in the world. In his stables are 200 horses, and in a double row of stalls forms a regular street. Each animal has its name painted in large white letters above its manger. One of the most valued of all is the horse which was formerly ridden by the late King Humbert.